

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03 RSR-01 /117 W

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R 120820Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 33

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, PK, BG

SUBJECT: REPATRIATION OF BENGALLEES

REF: KARACHI 1188 (NOTAL)

1. IN PRESS CONFERENCE IN KARACHI JULY 11, JUST PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE ON EUROPEAN AND US TRIP, PRESIDENT BHUTTO ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAD AUTHORIZED UNHCR "TO ARRANGE FOR PRIORITY REPATRIATION OF ANOTHER 5,000 BENGALLEES WITHOUT INSISTING ON A PRIOR ASSURANCE OF RECIPROCITY BY BANGLADESH." BHUTTO PREFACED THIS ANNOUNCEMENT WITH STATEMENT, "MY GOVERNMENT IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT RESOLVING THE OUTSTANDING HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS OF THE SUBCONTINENT. WE SEEK A HUMAN END TO THE SUFFERING AND ANGUISH OF OUR POW'S DETAINED IN INDIA. WITH THE SAME URGENCY AND SINCERITY WE ARE ALSO READY TO DEMONSTRATE OUR OWN WILLINGNESS TO CONTRIBUTE TO PUTTING AN END TO HUMAN SUFFERING." BHUTTO CONTINUED,
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"PAKISTAN HOPES THAT THIS UNILATERAL DECISION WILL LEAD

TO UNFREEZING OF THE PRESENT STALEMATE AND THAT AT
LEAST THE EXISTING UNDERSTANDING ON LIMITED REPATRIATION
WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED WITHOUT DELAY."

2. SIMULTANEOUS WITH START OF REPATRIATION OF 450 BENGALLEES
FROM KARACHI (REFTEL), 438 SICK AND WOUNDED PAK POW'S
INCLUDING 54 CIVILIANS, CROSSED INDO-PAK FRONTIER INTO
PAKISTAN AT WAGAH JULY 11.

3. COMMENT: UNCLEAR FROM BHUTTO'S STATEMENT WHETHER 5,000
BENGALLEES ARE IN ADDITION TO THOSE 15,000 WHOME GOP HAD
EARLIER PROPOSED FOR REPATRIATION UNDER LIMITED EXCHANGE OF
PERSONS WITH BANGLADESH, WHICH WAS ALSO TO HAVE INCLUDED
6,000 WIVES AND CHILDREN OF POW'S IN INDIA. ICRC HERE HAD
ALREADY PROCESSED 12,000 BENGALLEES FOR REPATRIATION AND
OBTAINED BANGLADESH PERMISSION FOR THEIR ENTRY. ICRC HAS
BEEN AWAITING GOP PERMISSION FOR THESE BENGALLEES TO LEAVE
ON INDIVIDUAL BASIS. POSSIBLE THAT 5,000 WILL BE SELECTED
FROM THIS GROUP. WE WILL SEEK CLARIFICATION FROM ICRC
AND UNHCR LOCAL REPS AT EARLY DATE.
DECONTROL ON RECEIPT. SANDERHOFF

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